

RECORD

RITHME,

BEING

An *Essay* towards the Reformation of
the Law, offer'd to the Consideration of the
Committee appointed for that purpose.

Written by some men of Law, at a time
when they had little else to doe.

London, ss.

BE it remembred now that formerly,
To witte last Term o' th' holy Trinitie,
Before the Keepers of the liberty
Of England, by the full authority
Of the long Parliament, at Westminster,

Priscilla Morecrosse widow came, by her
Attorney *M. T.* and prefers,
I' th Court of upper bench, a bill of hers,
Against one *Roger Prisklowe*, who doth lye
A prisoner in the *Marshalls* Custody.
Et cetera, and 'tis upon a plea
Of trespass on the Case, *pledget* there be
To prosecute the suite, to witte *John Doe*
And *Richard Roe*. And the said bill also



A

Dot'i

Doth follow in these very words; to wit
In legal manner, *London, Scilicet.*

Declaration.

Priscilla Morecrave Widow doth complain
of *Roger Prickleue*, who doth now remain,
Prisoner to th' *Marshall* of the *Marshalse*,
Of the said *Keepers* of the *Liberty*,
Of *England* by authority and power,
Of *Parliament*, i'th' bench superiour,
Before the same *Keepers* themselves that bee;
For that (to wit) whereas the aforesaid *thee*
Priscilla Morecrave, is a person just,
Honest, and faithful, one that never durst
Give the least cause for to be thought unchast;
But hath lived ever modest, and was grac't;
With godly education, and demurely,
Behav'd her self; and all her life most purely;
Hath with the Zealous & precise consoorted,
And free from all uncleanness was reported,
Who never was amongst the well affected,
Stain'd with a Crime, or in the least suspected;
But with the pious people of this Nation,
Hath had good fame, credit, and reputation;
By which good reputation, she hath gain'd
Not only love, and favour, but obtain'd
A plentiful estate, by which most freely
She manag'd her Affairs; And that *Ralph Seely*
One of the Assembly late at *Westminster*,
A godly Gospel-preaching-Minister,
Was earnest suiter in the way of Mariage;
To have her for his yoke fellow, his cariage,
And his most Saint like loving humble speeches,
Had her consent to all that he beseeches.

And

And she agreed to give him all content;
 To wed him by the Act of Parliament.
 Three times the Contract publish'd, then their trust
 That all shall be compleated by the Justice,
 But this said *Roger* all aforesaid knowing,
 Maliciously intending her undoeing,
 To blast her reputation, and dishonour
 Her unstair'd Chastity; to cast upon Her
 Infamons obloquy, to disrepute Her,
 And to deprive her of her foresaid Suiter;
 By breaking of the marriage was intended;
 To leave her to the world lost, and unfriended;
 In month *September*, day of the same Eleven,
 One Thousand six hundred fiftie seven,
 Of our Lords year, as by our computation;
 Our Common-wealth reckons from th' incarnation,
 At *London* in the parish of *St. Mary*
Bow, in the ward of *Cheap*, he then contrary
 To truth most falsly and maliciously
 In hearing of right worthy Company;
 And honorable persons, *Noble Lords*,
 Did speak these false, and most reproachful words:
 To and of her the *Plantiff*; that's to say,
 You are a pockie whore, and at this day
 You have three Bastards living, which do dwell,
 Two in *Pick-hatch*, and one in *Clarkenwell*.
 By reason of which false malicious speaking
 Of the said *Roger*, to her great-heart-breaking;
 The godly-gospel minister, her Suiter,
 Forbears his former suit, and for the future,
 Did make profession he would never take her;
 To be his *Consort*, but did quite forsake her;
 And all her friends with whom she had repure;
 Do now esteem her for a *Prostitute*;

VWhereby she is the worse, and damaged;
One thousand and five hundred pounds, beside
 And thereupon she doth her suit produce;
 In the Upper Bench because of this abuse;
Imparlance;

And now until this day, that is to say;
 On *Munday three weeks after Michaels day*
 In this same Term, which very day until
 Roger had leave remparle unto that Bill,
 And then to answer it; before the same
 Keepers, as well the said *Priscilla* came,
 Ith Court of Upper Bench, at *Westminster*
 By that Attourney nam'd before, for her
 As the aforesaid Roger who doth come
 By his Attourney, *A. B.*
 And doth defend the force and injurie,
 VWhen, where *et cetera*. And saith that shee
 The said *Priscilla*, ought nor maintain, nor
 Have therupon her Suit against him; for
Protesting, nor acknowledging, that shee
 Is half so honest as shee is seem to bee,
 Nor is her body, or her life so clear,
 Nor so unsported, as shee would appear;
 Nor is shee of so chaste a reputation,
 As is pretended by her Declaration,
Protesting also that the said *Ralph Seely*
 (Though oft together did both hee and shee lye)
 Nere ment to Marry her, but all his power
 Of love was quenched in lesse than half an hour,
 Besides hee'd quite undoe her; if he had,
 His learning was so small his life so bad.
 For Plea he saith that at the time, wherein
 Shee does suppose these slanderous words have bin

Spoke by th' aforesaid Roger, shee the sayd
 Priscilla was nor Widow, Wife, nor Mayd;
 And though shee pass'd for an unbroken virgin,
 Shee catch'd th' aforesaid *Presbyter* in her gyn;
 And with his wall-cy'd *Sainship* plaid the linnen;
 Whob'ing inspir'd by a Thanksgiving dinner,
 Did carnally her body know, to wit
 The crime of *Fornication* did commit;
 In the same Ward, and *Parish*, to his Honour,
 He at on clap got 3 great Boys upon her.
 All which for privacy were put to feeding;
 At *Bridewell* and *Pickbitch*, to learn good breeding;
 And shee in recompence clapp'd him to sore,
 With *Anglice French-POX*, it made him rore,
 And put his *Genitalls* in such a pickle,
 That all his *Parish* women did article,
 And out him of his *Benefices* twain,
 And into *Scotland* made him rore again.
 Wherefore (as lawfull 'twas) on this occasion,
 He spake the words layd in the Declaration,
 And this he *Justifies*, and judgment craves,
 If shee this suit ought to maintain or have.

Replication.

And for the said *Priscilla* doth maintain her
 Said Action, against all that's said to stain her;
 And saith this *Case* nor will nor can forejudge her
 For ought that's pleaded by the foresaid *Roger*
 But though by his said *Plea*, shee's forc'd to tarry,
 Her suit against him, yet shee ought to carry;
 Protesting therefore shee's not such a liver,
 Nor of such Fame, as the said *Plea* doth give her
 Out for to be, but that shee hath not vary'd,
 One jot in life from what shee hath declared.

And

And on the said *Ralph* butt protesting farther;
 That of the *Kirke* he was a Godly Father,
 And of as pure and chaste a conversation,
 As any *Presbyter* within the Nation.
 And free from any lustfull act committing;
 With her, or any other deed unfitting.
 For *Replication* saith, she was not knowing;
 Of the said *Ralph* but 3 years last foregoing.
 During which time, and till the said words spoke were;
 By the said *Roger* (that almost have broke her)
 She liv'd a *Marion* life; chaste, grave, and thrifty;
 And came unto the Age of three and fifty;
 And the said *Ralph* all the said time, by reason
 Of his much preaching in and out of season,
 And of his fasting long, and longer praying,
 And from his peoples not their duties paying,
 In the same *Ward* and *Parish*, grew so weakly,
 That of his life he did despair weekly:
 Which weaknesse had so very much out worn him,
 That in his bed he was not able turn him;
 Till that a learned *Doctor* of the *Colledge*
 Who of his sicknesse had full perfect knowledge,
 For gaining of his health did much exhort him,
 To wedde an honest *Marion* to Comfort him,
 Which the said *Ralph* well liking, and well knowing
 The honour to the said *Priscilla* owing,
 And thinking that delayes might greatly Worse him;
 With Zeal, did Court her for a wife to nurse him;
 And She in pity to his weak *Condition*,
 Did condescend to be his free *Physician*,
 And for their joynt desires better carrying,
 A day by both appointed was for marrying.
 But on the suddain off the same was broken;
 By the said *Roger*'s words aforesaid spoken;

By meanes whereof, he the said *Ralph*, endure
 Could not the said *Priscilla* for a Cure,
 But of relief his expectations failing,
 And his long sicknesse more and more prevailling,
 In Month *October*, day thereof that first is,
 In the *Lords* year that formerly exprest is,
 At the said *Ward*, the said *Ralph* much in trouble,
 Did dye, to's losse, possess'd of living double:
 And left the said *Priscilla* to bemoan her,
 For that no other man would after own her;
 And that she truly doth reply and don't lye,
 She prayes may be inquired by the *Country*.

Rejoynder.

And the aforesaid *Roger* saith the Plea
 By her the said *Priscilla* formerly
 Put in and pleaded by her Réplication,
 In the aforesaid manner, form, and fashion;
 And the whole matter that's contained there
 Are not sufficient in the law, for her
 The said *Priscilla*, to maintain her foresaid
 Suit against him, and there need be no more said:
 Nor by the lawes of *England* is it fit,
 That he should make answer unto it,
 This he to averre is ready. Whereupon
 For want of better replication
 In this behalf, he doth a judgment pray,
 And that she from having her action may
 Be barr'd, for this against him; And for
 The causes why he doth in Law demurre
 Upon that replication, he the said
Roger according to the Statute made,
 And in such case provided, doth declare
 And shew to th Court of *Uppes Bench* that's here,

These

These causes following, to wit, that this
Said Replication insufficient is,
Negative, pregnant, and uncertain, unde,
Double, wants forme, and does not conclude
Rightly, according to the legal way.

Joyning in demurrer

And she the said *Priscilla* here doth say
That the said *Plea* which by reply has bin
Pleaded by her, and what's contain'd therein,
In point of *Law*, good, and sufficient be,
Her suit against him to maintain, And she
That *Plea* and matter, pleaded as above,
Is ready here both to maintain and prove,
As this *Court* shall consider, and think fit,
And 'cause he does not answer it, nor yet
Deny that *Replication* any way,

The said *Priscilla* (as before) doth pray
Judgment, and damages, to be judg'd to her,
For all this injury which he did do her.
But cause this *Court* here not advised is
Of giving judgment of the premises,
A day's giv'n to both parties to appear
I'th Upper Bench, before the *Keepers* here
At *Westminster*, till *Munday* after *eight*
Dayes of *St. Hillary*, for the receipt,
And hearing of their Judgment upon it,
For that the *Court* is not advis'd as yet.

FINIS

Jan. 1639